

Gulf of Mexico Regional Sediment Management Master Plan (GRSMMP)
Ecological Aspects Workshop
New Orleans, March/2008

The Gulf States have acknowledged that sediment resources are integral to accomplishing many Alliance restoration initiatives. They also acknowledged a need for a better understanding of regional sediment systems and processes to inform decisions about projects and actions that use sediment resources or affect them. The Governors' Action Plan identifies development of a Gulf Region Sediment Management Master Plan as an implementation action for the Conservation and Restoration Workgroup.

An important element that defines the general setting onto which the sediment management and needs is the ecological backdrop where all this occurs. To be able to better define the plan and have a holistic view of the sediment resources in the Gulf of Mexico, the RSM team is convening a workshop to focus on the "Ecological Aspects of Regional Sediment Management". This workshop has the following objectives:

Objectives/Purpose:

- 1) Develop understanding of the important relationships that exist between Gulf sediment system dynamics and the ecological processes that are both influenced by this as well as how the ecological processes influence the sediment processes in turn.
- 2) Obtain, through a participatory process, the general and most critical elements of the ecology of the Gulf of Mexico that need to be taken into consideration any time sediment is manipulated in the system.
- 3) Generate a framework for the "Comprehensive Regional Sediment Management Plan of the Gulf of Mexico" using the ecology of the region as a guiding principle to insert all the other components of regional sediment management; therefore generating a holistic approach to the issue.

Gulf Regional Sediment Management Master Plan (GRSMMP)
Workshop Agenda
New Orleans, Louisiana
March 25 & 26, 2008

DAY 1 - MARCH 25

7:30 CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

TOPIC

MODERATOR

8:00 Introduction - Opening Remarks

Greg Ducote

8:30 RRCT Status and Direction

Quenton Dokken

9:00 GRSMMP Review

Larry Parson

9:30 Ecological Considerations Focus area

9:30 - Introduction

Rafael Calderon

9:45 - Characterizing ecological sub-regions considering:

- Geomorphic
- Sediment processes and characteristics
- Ecological

Jeff Waters
Dawn Lavoie

10:30 BREAK

10:45 - Processes that should be considered when planning restoration/conservation activities involving sediment management. (considering borrow areas, placement sites, redirected sediment flow, etc.)

Denise Reed
(UNO)

- Hydrodynamics
(currents, waves)
- Sediment dynamics
(transport, grain size, suspension)
- Water quality
(temperature, turbidity, salinity, chemistry)
- Other Considerations - what's missing?
- Group discussion

12:00 - 1:00 LUNCH PROVIDED

1:00 - Relationship of above processes on regional ecological resources?

Group

- Marshes, sea grasses, oysters, benthic communities, Fish (EFH), critical habitats, other
- Group discussion - how can the master provide guidance So that these considerations are addressed in planning projects utilizing the RSM approach?

2:15 BREAK

- 2:30 - The use of tools to guide management decisions related to regional eco-sediment management Larry Parson
- Sediment models
 - Watershed models
 - Ecological models
 - Management needs

- 3:30 - Group discussion - How will the Ecological Considerations focus area contribute to the overall GRSMMP - Define Outputs Calderon/Ferraro
- Ecological sub-regions
 - Main habitats as related to RSM
 - Affects on Eco-processes
 - Tools and the decision-making process

4:15 Adjourn for the day

DAY 2 - MARCH 26

7:30 CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

8:30 Review of Day 1 Larry Parson

- 8:45 Other Focus Area Reports - Scope, status, and direction. Sub-workgroup Leads
- How will each focus area support RSM in relation to restoration and conservations activities?
- Regional Sediment Budget Khalil/Waters
 - Sediment Inventories Moya/LaVoie

10:15 BREAK

- Dredging Activities Bob Heinly
- Information Management Rose Dopsovic
- Policies, Authorities, and Funding Lynn Martin

12:00 - 1:00 LUNCH PROVIDED

- 1:00 Work Session (where do we need to be in July?) Quenton Dokken
- Milestones and Schedule
 - Wrap-up
 - Next meeting/conference call

2:30 Focus Area Breakout Sub-workgroup Leads

(Each sub-workgroup to provide report at next function)

4:00 Adjourn